

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Solicitation of Water Quality Related Data to Support the Development of the 2004 Water Quality Limited Segments List under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and Subchapter 6 of the New Jersey Watershed Management Planning Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15-6)**

**Take notice** that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is soliciting water quality related data to develop the 2004 Water Quality Limited Segments List (also known as the 303(d) List or Sublist 5 of the Integrated List). The Water Quality Limited Segments List is used to establish priorities for implementation of water quality improvement measures including, as appropriate, development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). A TMDL establishes allowable pollutant loads or other quantifiable parameters that a stream can assimilate without exceeding applicable surface water quality standards. TMDLs establish the basis for water quality based controls such as permit limits or best management practices to control the amount of pollutants being discharged into the water body.

Data received through this solicitation may be used to:

- 1) confirm impairment of a waterbody and/or presence of a pollutant that is currently on the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List;
- 2) delist a waterbody and/or a pollutant that is currently on the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List; or,
- 3) list a waterbody and/or a pollutant that is not included on the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List.

The development of the Water Quality Limited Segments List is governed by Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1313 (d)), United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation at 40 CFR 130, and Subchapter 6 of New Jersey's Water Quality Management Planning Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15).

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires States, Territories and authorized Tribes to promulgate a list of both waterbodies in which it is known that water quality does not currently meet applicable surface water quality standards, as well as threatened waterbodies. Threatened waterbodies are those waterbodies in which water quality currently meets applicable water quality standards but for which statistically significant trends indicate that the waterbody is not expected to meet applicable surface water quality standards by the next 303 (d) cycle, currently two (2) years. New Jersey's Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQSs) can be found at N.J.A.C 7:9B. Waterbodies must be maintained on the Water Quality Limited Segments List unless new data show that SWQSs are being met, waters are not threatened, or the original basis for listing is no longer applicable, e.g., adopted change in applicable SWQSs.

Under USEPA rule (40CFR 130.7), States, Territories and authorized Tribes are required to develop the Water Quality Limited Segments List in 1998, 2002 and every two years there

after. This notice solicits data for development of the 2004 Water Quality Limited Segments List expected to be adopted April 1, 2004.

**Interested persons** should mail data packages to the Department at NJDEP, Bureau of Water Quality Standards and Assessment, 401 East State Street, P.O. Box 409, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0409.

Data packages, which include data collected through December 31, 2002, will be accepted for a period of six months from the date of this notice for the development of the 2004 Water Quality Limited Segments List. Data collected after December 31, 2002 and data packages submitted after this time period may be considered for subsequent Water Quality Limited Segments Lists and/or other Department assessments such as Water Quality Inventory Reports.

Quality assurance considerations are particularly important because the adopted Water Quality Limited Segments List is used to establish priorities for water quality improvement measures, including, as appropriate, TMDL development. Given the importance and long-term ramifications of the Water Quality Limited Segments List, the Department must use data which meet the following quality assurance requirements:

- 1) Data packages must include a completed Quality Assurance/Quality Control Project Plan (QA/QC/Plan) prepared in accordance with "Guidance for the Development of Quality Assurance Project Plans for Environmental Monitoring" (EPA Region II, May 1, 1999);
- 2) All samples, including replicates, blanks and recovery spikes, shall be collected in conformance with the Department's Field Sampling Manual (1992);
- 3) Sampling locations must be accurately documented to within 200 feet;
- 4) Laboratory samples must be analyzed at a State certified lab; and
- 5) Analytical testing methods shall be in accordance with 40 CFR Part 136 Guidelines for Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis under the Clean Water Act.

The Department will identify water quality limited segments using appropriate readily available data collected by governmental and non-governmental entities. In determining which data are appropriate and readily available, the Department will consider quality assurance/ quality control, monitoring design, age of data, accurate sampling location information, data documentation and use of electronic data management. A data package should include:

- 1) A completed QA/QC project plan.;
- 2) Data provided in electronic format, preferably STORET (data may also be provided in Excel) on floppy disc, ZIP drive or CD ROM. Electronic data cannot be accepted via e-mail or over the web at this time. A template for data not submitted in STORET format is available upon request from the Department at the address noted above or the web ([www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/watershed/integratedlist/datasolicitation](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/watershed/integratedlist/datasolicitation)). Station location data should be provided in ArcView, Arc Info or compatible format when possible. Station locations identified by latitude and longitude must also be mapped on a USGS Quadrangle Sheet; and,

- 3) A citable report summarizing the data that includes name address, and telephone number of the entity that generated the data set.

Public notice of solicitation of data is being provided in the New Jersey Register and DEP Bulletin, and on the NJDEP Website ([www.dep.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.dep.state.nj.us/dep)). Questions may be submitted electronically to [wat@dep.state.nj.us/dep](mailto:wat@dep.state.nj.us/dep).

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